
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 12



Number 3

2001

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extend to all our members
our best wishes
for a

**Happy
Thanksgiving**



&



*Happy
Holidays*



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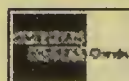
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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein

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BCCS PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to this third Journal issue for the year.

Atlanta ANA met expectations for this grand show and collector meeting place. The annual meeting of the Barber Society was held Saturday morning with seven persons present.

One topic I promised I'd introduce is that of member email addresses. I have a dozen such addresses and again request any member reading this to add their address by sending me an email [philip.carrigan@abbott.com] indicating this interest. We will see how this forum evolves. I would enjoy a slice of lively discussion but would not wish to see the print Journal deprived of solid thoughts or formed opinion.

I enjoyed the last issue and particularly the article on 1892 quarters authored by Steve Hustad. Steve presented new information which is the lifeblood of a specialty group such as ours. Kevin Flynn, newly arrived on the Barber scene, will deliver on more than a few variety and subtype articles. Jack White and Joe Haney are seasoned hands doing reports of interesting observations or possible new finds. Other members have Barber coins set aside which have a story to tell, incomplete as this may be. We all are keenly waiting to hear the beginning of your story.

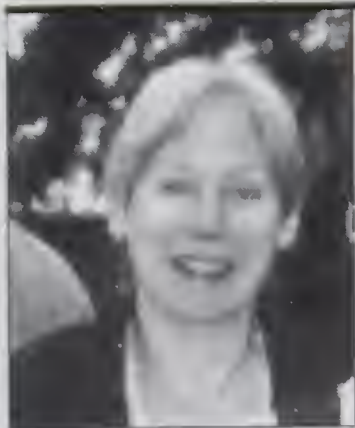
Stuart Segan is responsible for *Coin World Trends* and writes each week an insightful column on the coin market. He discusses auctions, shows, dealer and collector activity and pulls these observations into a coherent picture. I quote from his September 10th remarks:

Barber quarter dollars and Barber half dollars in circulated condition are in strong demand. Many collectors believe that numerous dates in these two series are rarer in Very Fine through About Uncirculated than they are in Mint State. Paying full trends for a VF to AU coin is a bargain according to these same collectors.

I obviously agree with Stuart on this observation, one of his many astute views on the state of numismatics. Do you collect a Barber series in these grades or in a lower or a higher uncirculated grade? How or why did you arrive at your choice and have you changed the grade you now prefer to purchase coins?

At this time, I plan to attend the Thanksgiving Dearborn, MI show but not the January FUN Show. I am still interested in hearing from members indicating whether they will attend a regional or national show and learn of other BCCS members who will be present as well.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It appears that Tyler Child's article "Barber Halves" which was featured in the recent Vol. 12, Number 1 Journal made an impression on at least one avid coin collector.

Up until that issue of the Journal, my husband Brian's only interest in Barbers was completing a set of Barber Dimes. In his pocket, he carries a grimy, dog-eared, well-creased index card containing "key dates" still needed. His hobby has him a frequent visitor to a local stamp & coin brokerage which runs a mail bid auction. The owners allow him to look through items of interest before they are placed in the auction and purchase them outright.

One evening in August, he presented me with a Barber Half Dollar album. Inside was a solitary 1895 Barber Half Dollar in AU condition. This was the first such half dollar I'd ever held in my hand. Tyler is right. What a beautiful coin!

I can't say I've been bitten by the collecting bug, but other than that lone half dollar, the album looks so empty and the holidays are coming...

Many thanks to those who contributed material to this issue. Please consider submitting a letter, article, update, etc. The Journal really needs your input.

CORRECTION

The caption under the photo on page 9 of the Vol. 12, No. 2 Journal should read: In this photo, an 1892 I, 25c Large Date showing the typical 124 count wide reeded edge is to the *right* and an 1892-S I, Small Date exhibiting the 136 count narrow reeded edge is to the *left*.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Jan. 15th

Building a Condition Rarity Set of Barber Quarters

by **John Frost**

This article is about the exhibition of a condition rare set of Barber Quarters at the recent ANA convention in Atlanta. As many Barber collectors know, the quarter series presents a tough challenge to all who try to put a complete set together, and includes many tough dates in addition to the well-known "Big 3" (1896-S, 1913-S, and the key, 1901-S). Most specimens exist in low grades and most complete sets assembled include lots of AG-G coins. When undertaking the task to build a higher-grade set, it immediately became obvious that these coins are very hard to find. This fact was confirmed when checking the rarity ratings in the Complete Guide to Barber Quarters by David Lawrence (both editions), along with a BCCS rarity ratings survey published in the Journal a few years ago.

I like rare things by nature, and like to show people coins that they've never seen before, regardless of how expensive (or cheap) the coins are. This led to an interesting goal. Instead of building a well-matched (by grade) set, it was decided to build a set where each coin was in the rarest grade, not necessarily the best affordable grade.

Most dates in the set are actually rarest in XF and AU grades (and a couple in VF). Only a few are truly scarcest in mint state. Numerous rolls of most coins were apparently saved, and as a result, a set of Barber Quarters in mint state, although expensive, can be assembled, as most coins are available for a price. Higher circulated grades of certain dates are practically non-existent. As a result, the series is loaded with condition rarities. So, in effect, I was taking the very tough task of completing the set, and making it as hard as possible! It meant passing up some nice AU or MS coins when needing a scarcer XF coin to fill the slot.

After ten years of work, the complete 74-coin set has nearly every date in the rarest grade, with only 6 coins needing to be upgraded, and 5 of those only by a single grade. These days, it is quite an event when I find a single coin to place in the set. This project involved going to many coin shows around the country, and in many cases, just being lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. Let's face it -- AU 1911-S or XF 1897-S quarters don't stay around at a dealer's table very long!

Employing the commonly used Sheldon rarity scale from R1 to R8 (R1 meaning common and R8 being unique or nearly so), the set consists of: 12 coins of

rarity R5, 2 coins of rarity R6, and 2 coins of rarity R7! At the ANA, each coin was exhibited with an information card with its mintage, rarest grade, and the corresponding rarity factor. Tips on authentication for the “Big 3” were offered, along with micro-photographs of the two genuine die pairs for each of the three.

Highlights and Surprises

I’ve tried to list some of the highlights of the set as it stands now, as well as a few surprises. I would be really interested if anyone has come to different conclusions than I have.

“The Big 3.” The key dates of the series, rare in all higher grades:

1896-S in XF: despite the numerous (7-10 pieces?) new AU specimens to appear on the market the past couple of years, reportedly from Hawaii, XF and Mint State pieces have not been increasing in availability, and a problem-free (and accurately graded) XF is a tough coin to find.

1901-S in VF35: despite its already tough reputation, this date is even far rarer than its reputation in all grades above G. Though my coin’s band under LIBERTY is full (barely), the overall coin just doesn’t quite make full XF, particularly in the eagle’s wings.

1913-S in XF45: although uncirculated specimens appear several times a year at major shows and auctions, XF pieces are extremely rare, with only a few more than that in AU. I’ve just seen 3 legitimate XF coins in 10 years, and have heard of only a couple others.

1897-O and 1897-S in XF. 1897-O is much rarer in full XF than is generally known, and in my opinion, is every bit as tough as the better known 1897-S, which is scarce in all grades above VG. Do others agree with this? Like the 1896-S, I’ve seen a few more AU 1897-S coins in the past few years (I also have one of these), whereas nice XF coins are still as hard to find as ever.

1901-O in AU. Knowledgeable collectors know how few AU (and MS) coins are available for this date. Often one of the last “holes” to fill in a set.

1905-O in AU. A favorite of many Barber collectors. Very scarce, but a few higher-grade pieces have hit the market in the past couple of years, so it is not quite as tough as people once thought it might be.

1906-O with an incredible strike. Although numerous New Orleans coins were of poor quality, including some fairly strange strikes (1907-O comes to mind), it is the 1906-O that seems to be the most poorly struck. I, however, found the single fullest strike of any “O” Barber quarter I’ve ever seen other than the 1892-O. There is full hair detail over the forehead, and significant relief to the ribbon that “LIBERTY” is on. The coin has to be seen to be believed!

1908 in XF. This coin has my vote as the biggest surprise from a condition rarity standpoint. Although normally considered a common R1 coin in all grades, I beg to differ. Based on the past 10 years experience (and that of a couple other dealers I know), this coin is really tough in XF. It is very common in G to VF, and also as common as dirt in AU (and to a lesser extent in MS), but nice XF coins are not around. During the past decade, I've seen hundreds of AUs and VFs, but only a couple of real XF's. Has anyone else had the trouble I've had with this date in XF? I only found my coin 2 years ago!

1909-O in AU. The 3rd-toughest coin in the set in original AU condition (behind only 1901-S and 1913-S). What more can be said? The coin in this set is the ONLY original AU that I have ever seen in 10 years of looking. Again, most "AU" coins aren't, or they are cleaned, some badly. Dave Lawrence said it is R7 in AU – I tend to agree, as most "AU" specimens would certainly net-grade down to XF or below. Mint State coins are very scarce too, but much more available than AU. This is definitely one of the highly-prized coins in the set.

Results of the Exhibit

I had a great time exhibiting the set and sharing some really rare coins with others. There was lots of traffic at the exhibit area, despite the smaller attendance in Atlanta than at past shows. The exhibit took 3rd place in the U.S. Coins category and 80 people voted for it as their "People's Choice Award" entry (which blew me away!). I spent lots of time at the exhibit cleaning the glass of the display cases, and many people familiar with Barbers seemed to appreciate the sheer difficulty of assembling that set. I had attached magnifiers to the cases so folks could get a closer look at the coins.

Most might assume that the Big 3, especially the 1901-S, would garner the most attention. While they certainly did get their share of interest (particularly the XF 1913-S), the coin getting the most comments was the 1909-O. Comments like "I've never seen a real AU 1909-O, ever!" were frequent. The strong strike of the 1906-O didn't go unnoticed by any means.

It was good to see other knowledgeable collectors appreciating the real rarity of these other coins, and not just the better-known expensive ones!

I would like to thank some of the friends and dealers who made some of the scarcer dates in the set available to me, including Bob Harlow, Don Lumadue, Lee Crane and especially David (Lawrence) Feigenbaum. (Dave found all three of the Big 3 for me, amongst others.)

BARBER BITS

BCCS member #920, **Cornel Christian** shares the following information:

In reference to Steve Hustad's article on 1892 Barber Quarters which appeared in the Vol. 12, No. 3 BCCS Journal (pp. 7-11), "I have 2 each of the '92 Barber Quarters.

<u>Date/MM</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>11</u>
92-P	VF-124	EF-136
92-O		124-VF, EF-124
92-S		136-VF, EF-136

And as far as I can tell, they are all Large Date. I used my 10x loupe and I can't see any difference on the date.

The reeding is easy to see.

I have my Quarter set complete and, except for the '01-S and '13-S, all are VF-EF.

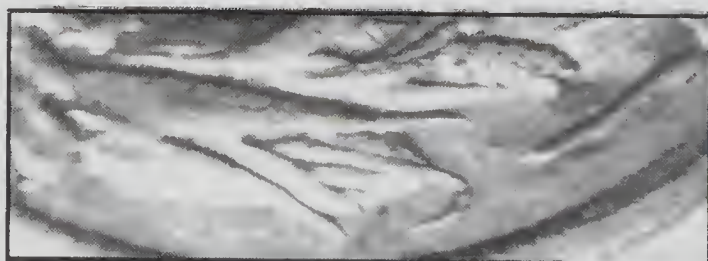
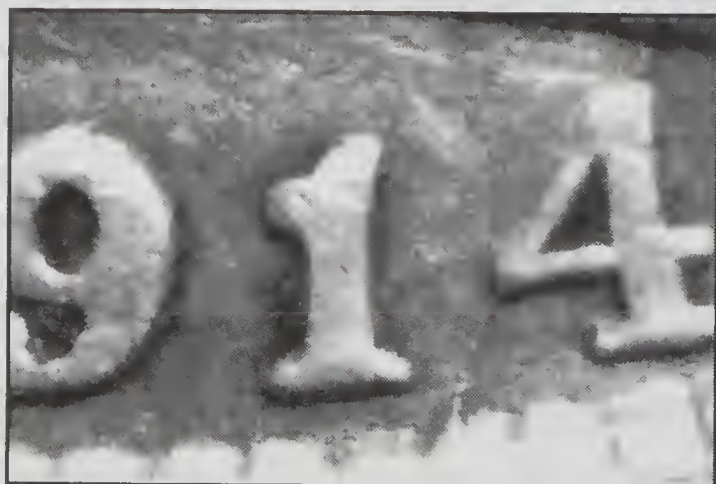
Am looking forward to see how much help you get.

Also, a few years ago, there was some interest in coins with die breaks. Haven't heard much lately, but I do have some with die breaks."

Editor's note: Major die breaks, commonly referred to as "cuds" result when a piece of the die breaks away from the die shank. Several informative articles about die breaks/cracks were previously published in the BCCS Journal. Former BCCS Journal editor **Russell Easterbrooks**'s excellent article "Mint Production Mishaps" which appeared in the Fall 1999 Journal explains how cuds can occur during the coin production process. Below are excerpts from that article:

"...First appearing as a hair like line of raised metal, die cracks can deteriorate to the point where a blob or droplet of raised metal will appear. If not discovered by Mint personnel, the die will continue to disintegrate causing large areas of metal known as cuds to obliterate parts of the coins' design. Among Barber coins, cuds are quite rare, yet lesser die cracks are far more common. The reverse of the Barber Dime emerges as the most prevalent hunting ground

for die cracks, while Barber Halves seem to have the fewest. The dime reverse also has the most diverse variety,... The life of a die varies with the metal and size of the coin it is to strike. All the dies (during the Barber era) were made at the Philadelphia Mint,... The working dies are put to work in the striking presses which generate great pressure on the dies, often approaching 80 tons for the Barber Dime issues. This striking pressure takes its toll on the hardened steel die, causing cracks to appear.”



The above photos show BCCS member #266, **Ralph Vignola's** 1914-D dime with a crack through the date, one through AMERICA and a filled R. On the reverse, there is a crack through the corn.



Here we see the die crack in the ribbon on the reverse of Ralph Vignola's 1898 dime. As Russell Easterbrooks pointed out in his article, such die cracks are prevalent on Barber Dimes.

All photos on this page courtesy of Lindsay Ashburn

Many thanks to BCCS members Cornel Christian and Ralph Vignola for their contributions.

Illustrating Varieties

by **Steve Hustad**

Some people have heard of certain varieties but have never seen them. Others own some varieties, but wonder if they're the same as a similar one mentioned by someone else - even when photos are provided. Still more have seen photographs of varieties, but they look fuzzy or not quite the same as that which is being described. So, way back when, I decided to illustrate the die varieties in my collection using drawings so I could show those details that didn't always show up well in photographs or that were difficult to describe in text.

I plan to share these plates with the membership spread over many issues, in hopes that they will help clarify and confirm any doubts or confusion that may have existed up to now about them. I don't own them all (or even most of them!) and they're not in "Gem blazing BU" condition (averaging VF to EF actually), but I think they're very instructive just the same. They also provide the opportunity to show various die states which can help nail down a particular variety. So here we go with Part 1 beginning with the Quarter series:

1st installment: 1892 Philadelphia Quarters

1892 Type I, Large Date - double die reverse (1 plate, plate coin is EF-45)

I illustrated this coin back before Dave Lawrence came out with his groundbreaking book, so it doesn't contain his variety number. For those who wish to look it up there, the variety is Lawrence 103. Here I'm showing a mid/late die state (I think) - given the defects noted for the reverse die. Others with this same variety can compare theirs to this one to see if it's earlier or later. Maybe after enough people 'weigh in' on that, we can determine pretty much the latest die state and estimate scarcity. I didn't plate the obverse of this one because there was nothing unusual about it except to note that it is from (one of the?) the large date dies...

1/1892/2 Type II, Small Date - RPD South & N/NW (2 plates, plate coin is EF-40)

Repunched date as noted/shown. My piece is probably a late die state due to the cracks running through the stars and especially the reverse which shows numerous areas of die stress (which is why the reverse is illustrated). That is really on its last legs!

That's it for this issue. Next time we'll show the "O" and "S" mint 1892 quarter die varieties that I've plated. I hope you'll find these interesting and useful.



1892 I DOUBLED DIE REVERSE

QUARTER

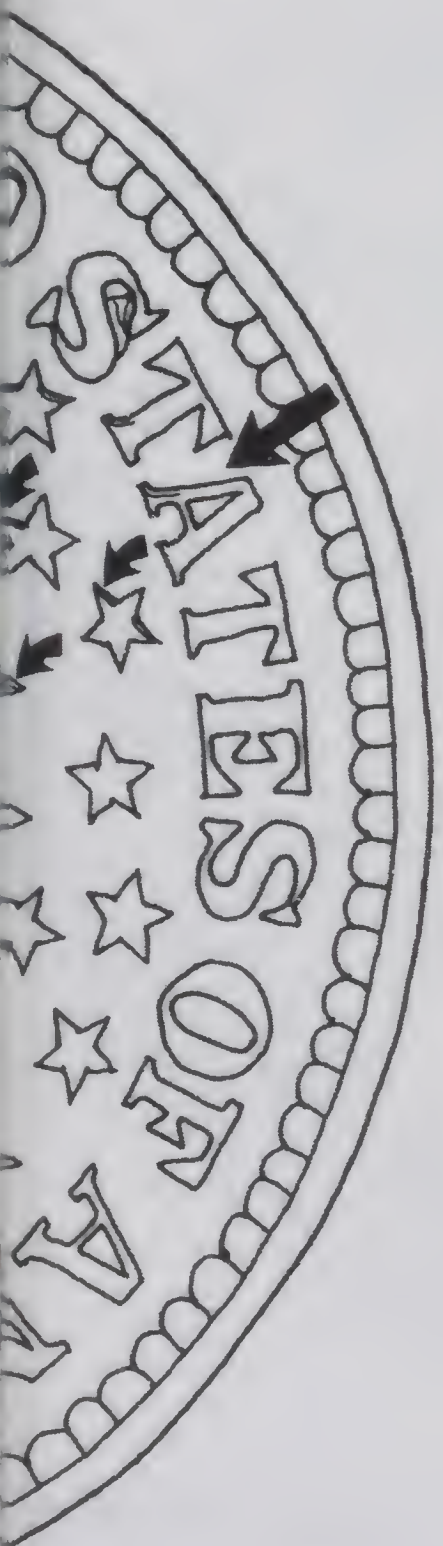
(L.D.) (Lawrence 103)

OBVERSE: Normal

REVERSE: Hub doubled die reverse. Most evident in the legend 'UNITED STA' and 'QUARTER DOL.' Also note the doubling in the olive branch and some stars. All secondary images are fully raised and rounded, and occur mostly within the lettering. The doubling is fine but quite plain.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen. Rev.: A large die chip is present within the upper loop of the first 'S' of 'STATES'. Also, a fine die crack off the tip of the right ribbon end shows.



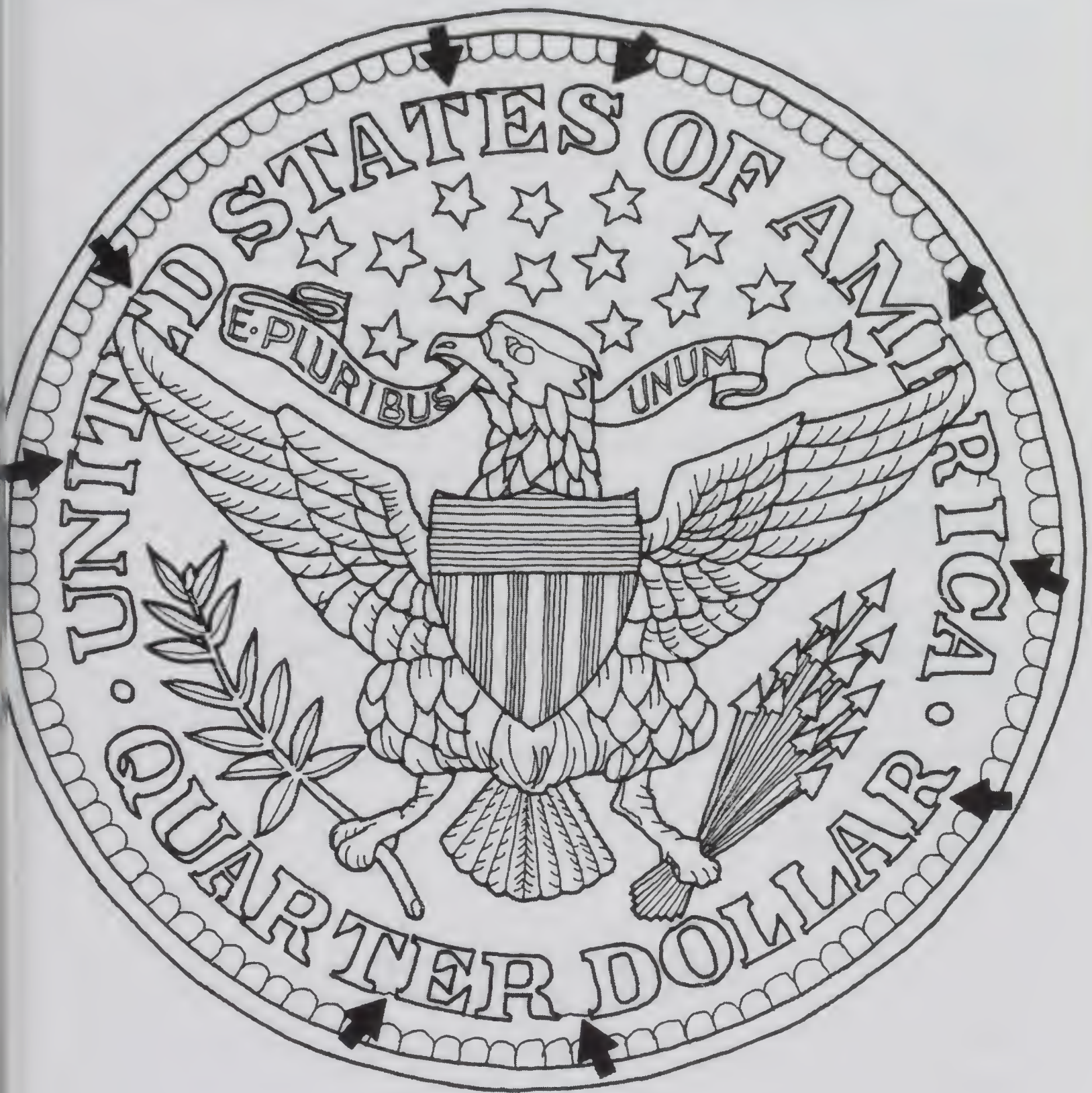


OBVERSE: The 1 was originally punched into the South of the final digit (visible just beneath the final 1's serif) and the 2 was originally punched into the N/NW of the final 2 - lightly visible to the N/NW. These show boldly in the right light, though are close to the final digits and difficult to see if there is any dirt in the way.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: There are two thin diagnostic die cracks visible - one between stars three & four and the other between the last star and the point of the bust.

1/1892/2 II (S.D.) RPD - South & North/NW QUARTER



REVERSE: Normal

DIE DEFECTS:

Thin diagnostic die cracks are visible at 'TER D...R' of 'QUARTER DOLLAR' and at 'ITE,' 'TES' and 'MERICA' in 'UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.'

Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

In Volume VII #2 of our Journal which was published in the summer of 1996, there appeared an index. This index was comprehensive and listed virtually all Journal articles in the period from 1989 through 1995.

In this current issue of the Journal, you will find a similar index below covering the period from 1996 to 2001. The index is separated into the various Barber series and is a guide in many cases to an article about a specific coin. Also listed are many articles of a general nature covering rarities, Barber collecting and members' stories about their collecting history.

Newer members may find this index helpful in locating articles of interest and in ordering back issues of specific Journals. Back issues are \$3.00 each paid by check made out to the BCCS and sent to me. For purchases of multiple issues, the price is reduced, typically \$10.00 for 4 issues. If in doubt, contact me.

Along the same lines, newer members may wish to purchase a copy of the above mentioned Journal with the first index. As a special offer, copies of this early Journal may be purchased for \$1.00 for as long as they last. About 30 are still left. Here is a good chance to find articles of interest as about 150 articles and photo entries are listed. Again, a check for \$1.00 will get you a copy.

Regards to all,
Paul Reuter

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First Barber Dime Doubled Die Discovered

by **Kevin Flynn**

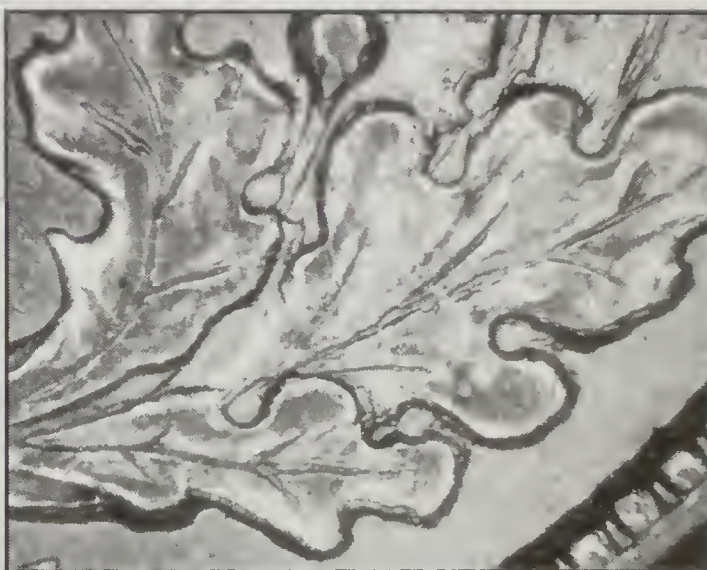
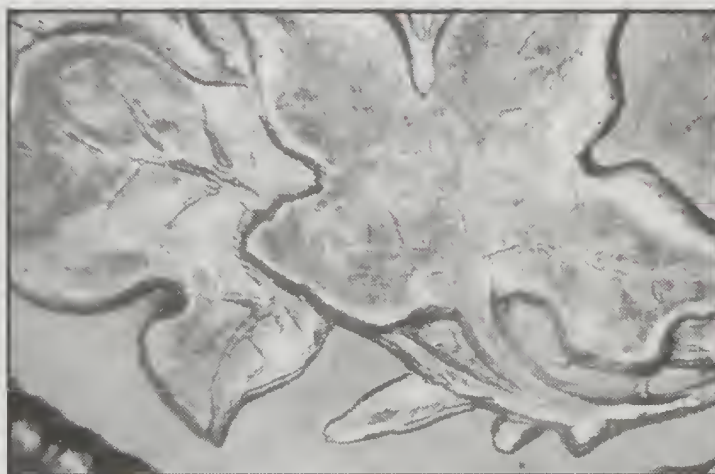
Don Hansen recently submitted many Barber dimes for possible use in my upcoming book on Barber dimes, quarters, and half dollars. One of these coins was a slabbed 1898-O Barber Dime. The date was slightly repunched and the grade of the coin was AU55.

On each Barber coin that I examine, I look for repunching on the date and any doubling on the obverse or reverse. I am intrigued that up to now there have been no published doubled dies for the Barber dimes. There are many Barber quarter doubled dies, and a handful of Barber half dollar doubled dies, but no dimes. There are very few series struck between 1836 and 1996 which contain no doubled dies. I went back through all of the Barber Journals, and any other book referencing Barbers, and found no doubled dies on the dimes. How could this be? Is it because we have not searched for them or that they do not exist? Before the Barber Dime was the Liberty Seated Dime. There are several Liberty Seated Dime doubled dies between 1889 and 1891.

The search for the first Barber Dime doubled die has ended. Mr. Hansen's 1898-O Barber Dime showed clear doubling on the reverse. The doubling is a Class II, or distorted hub doubling. This type of doubling is created during the annealing and cooling process. During that period, the working dies had to be hubbed multiple times in order to get a deep impression. Before the dies were hubbed, they were softened through annealing (heating). When the die was annealed, it expanded; when cooled, it contracted. If the die was heated or cooled too quickly, the image on the die would be slightly larger or smaller. When the die was hubbed a second time, a secondary image would show. The doubling is either towards the center or towards the rim. Doubling on a Class II is also stronger on the design elements closer to the rim and is smaller as you go towards the center.

The doubling on this 1898-O Barber Dime shows on the reverse. Doubling is clearly seen on both ribbons, the leaves on the lower left side and the leaves and branches on the right side. This variety has been listed as 1898-O DDR-001. The search for more Barber Dime doubled dies continues. Look through your collection. You never know what you will find until you look. I would like to thank Mr. Hansen for sharing his coin with us.

On the following page are photos of **1898-O 10c DDR-001**.



Photos by Kevin Flynn

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